

## When to go to the Emergency Room



**GO** to the Emergency Room...

**For serious health problems that can cause lasting injury or death.**

***Be ready for a real emergency:***

- Ask your doctor's office for a number to call after hours. Use this number if your problem is serious but not life-threatening, like if your child is throwing up. Calling your Patient 1<sup>st</sup> doctor or clinic first may reduce the time you have to wait if your doctor sends you to the ER.
- Call 911 or go to the emergency room if there is a bad injury, sudden illness or an illness that is quickly getting much worse.

**The only time you should go to the emergency room is when you have a real emergency. If the problem is not a real emergency, you may have to pay for the ER visit.**

## When not to go to the Emergency Room

Do **NOT** go to the Emergency Room...

- If you have a cold or any other health problem that your doctor can take care of in his or her office.



- If you are going to the emergency room because you can't get a ride to your doctor's office.

**Call 1-800-362-1504 for help with a ride to your doctor's office.**

Your doctor must okay your visit to the emergency room or Medicaid may not pay for it.

If you are not sure what to do, call your doctor's office. Your Patient 1st personal doctor (or a qualified person chosen by your doctor) can be reached by telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.